



*Members of the Brookside Women's Club in jail after being arrested by State Troopers after they blocked scabs from entering Brookside Mine.*

*Photo: United Mine Workers Journal*

## three

The scene in the court house was something to see. Retired miners, widows of miners and other friends flocked into town from all over Harlan County to post their property for the bonds for those arrested. Despite the reason for everyone being there, there was a great mood in the air. There was this feeling that the people were going to WIN—and nothing but nothing the coal operators and their court house gang could do would dampen this spirit.

By noon on Friday, after those arrested had been arraigned, the miners' supporters had pretty much cleared out of Harlan. Many had gone home, but others went on to the Multi-Purpose Center at Evarts, which was practically the headquarters for strike activities. I went back with them. There seemed to be a kind of temporary lull, so I took advantage of it to talk to the people and learn what had been happening for the past 13 months.

They told me for three years previous to the Labor Board election of the United Mine Workers at Brookside, the men there had been "represented" by the Southern Labor Union. The stewards and officers of that "union" were appointed by the company. And if a miner wanted to file a grievance and have half a chance of winning, he had to hire his own lawyer and fight outside his "union" altogether.

The most important issue for the miners, and one which causes a great many grievances, is the issue of mine